

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application, as amended.

Claims 15-18 and 20-34 are pending. By this Amendment, Claim 15 has been amended as discussed in detail below. Claims 1-14 and 19 were previously cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

In the Office Action, Claims 15-18 and 20-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Dyke in combination variously with IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin: Cryptographic Microcode Loading Controller for Secure Function and Bakhle.

Without acceding to the outstanding rejections, Claim 15 has been amended to more clearly recite that which Applicant regards as his invention. In particular, Claim 15 now recites, *inter alia*, an encryption circuit comprising an input/output module coupled to the host computer system via a dedicated bus, the input/output module handling data exchanges between the host computer system and the encryption circuit via the input/output module and the input/output module comprising a microcomputer and a memory. It is apparent that the applied references do not teach or suggest these features.

For example, a portion of Dyke is relied upon in the Office Action (at page 3, line 21 to page 4, line 3) to teach a “host computer 12” coupled to a dual-port RAM 14, address and control buffers 16, and data buffer 18. *See* Dyke, col. 3, lines 55-65; Fig. 1. However, Dyke further explains that his “host computer 12” is actually “(for example [an] IBM BIOS PROM) 12” or “host computer PROM 12.” *See* Dyke, col. 3, lines 58-59; col. 5, line 51; *see also* Dyke, FIG. 2b. Dyke thus clearly teaches that his “host computer PROM 12” is merely a PROM device. Dyke further clearly teaches that his address and control buffers 16 and data buffer 18 are merely buffer devices:

“Preferably, the host computer PROM 12 may be an IBM or IBM compatible BIOS PROM number 27128 sold by INTEL Corporation, . . . the address and control buffers 16 include a pair of 74 HCT244 buffers sold by Radio Corporation of America, and the data buffer 18 a 74HCT245 sold by Motorola Semiconductor Products, Incorporated.”

Dyke, col. 5, lines 60-68; FIG. 2b.

There is no apparent express teaching or suggestion that Dyke’s “host computer PROM 12” or buffers 16 and 18 include a computer or microcomputer, nor would one skilled in the art understand Dyke’s Programmable Read Only Memory (PROM) device or buffer devices to inherently disclose a computer or microcomputer. Therefore, it is clear that Dyke does not teach or suggest an encryption circuit comprising an input/output module coupled to the host computer system via a dedicated bus, and the input/output module comprising a microcomputer and a memory, as recited in Claim 15.

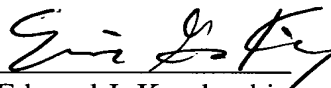
It is further apparent that the secondary references do not remedy the above discussed deficiencies of Dyke. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claim 15 distinguishes patentably from the applied references. The remaining Claims 16-18 and 20-34 which depend therefrom are also believed to be patentable due to their dependence from Claim 15 as well as for the additional features recited in Claims 16-18 and 20-34.

Applicant respectfully submits this Amendment places the application in condition for allowance and/or places the claims in better form for appeal. Therefore, entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place this application in better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant’s undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

A prompt Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (T2147-906625) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Edward J. Kondracki
Reg. No. 20,604

Miles & Stockbridge P.C.
1751 Pinnacle Drive, Suite 500
McLean, Virginia 22102-3833
(703) 903-9000

Eric G. King
Reg. No. 42,736

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